

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of fludarabine phosphate starting from fludarabine, comprising the following steps: (a) the fludarabine is caused to react with a short-chain trialkyl phosphate and phosphorus oxychloride at a temperature of less than -5°C ; (b) an aprotic non-polar organic solvent is added to the mixture so obtained with consequent precipitation of the fludarabine phosphate.
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the starting fludarabine has a water content, measured in accordance with the Karl Fischer (K.F). method, of not more than 0.5%.
3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the short-chain trialkyl phosphate is a compound of the formula $(\text{RO})_3\text{PO}$ wherein R is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the trialkyl phosphate is selected from trimethyl phosphate and triethyl phosphate, preferably triethyl phosphate.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the trialkyl phosphate is used in an amount of from 5 to 8 moles, preferably from 6 to 7 moles, per mole of fludarabine.
6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 5, characterized in that the phosphorus oxychloride is used in an amount of from 1 to 4 moles, preferably from 2 to 3 moles, per mole of fludarabine.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that the aprotic non-polar organic solvent is a hydrocarbon solvent.
8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim 7, characterized in that the aprotic non-polar organic solvent is toluene.
9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that the aprotic non-polar organic solvent is added at a temperature of less than -5°C .
10. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that the aprotic non-polar organic solvent is used in an amount of from 50 to 150 moles, preferably in an amount of from 100 to 110 moles, per mole of fludarabine.
11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is carried out at a temperature of less than -10°C , preferably at a temperature of from -10 to -15°C .